



Wisconsin Women's Council

Weekly Update – November 13, 2009

Visit our web site at: <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov>

Contents

1. Women, Jobs and Wisconsin's Green Economy Public Policy Forum
 2. Mini-Grant opportunity for local schools and community organizations.
Share this opportunity with businesses and organizations in your district!
 3. Women's Council Endorses Legislation
 4. Research & Publications
 - A. *Widening the Net: National Estimates of Gender Disparities in Engineering* (Urban Institute)
 - B. *Staying Competitive: Patching America's Leaky Pipeline in the Sciences* (Center on American Progress)
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1. Women, Jobs and Wisconsin's Green Economy Public Policy Forum



On October 29, 2009, the Women's Council, WI Dept. of Workforce Development and US Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau, hosted a public policy roundtable on women and green jobs at the MGE Innovation Center in Madison, WI. More than 70 business, public sector, non-profit, academic and other workforce development leaders registered for this event to discuss how women – as workers, business owners, and leaders – fit in to the development of green jobs and industries in Wisconsin. And, if they don't, how will we engage them?

Featured Speakers

- State Representative Kristen Dexter
- DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman
- Sarah White, Center on Wisconsin Strategy
- Nancy Chen, Women's Bureau, US Department of Labor

Selected highlights from program speakers and roundtable discussions.

Where Are the Women in the New Green Economy?

- The social and political momentum around green jobs presents a new and immediate opportunity.
- Most green jobs are not new and can be accessed within the education and training systems we already have -- this is work we already know how to do.
- A greener labor market is not necessarily gender-neutral -- women remain underrepresented in the major categories of jobs going green.
- Use public policy and legislation to ensure funding and development opportunities include goals for women's participation and requires appropriate measures of progress/success.



1. Women, Jobs and Wisconsin's Green Economy Public Policy Forum - continued

- Link entrepreneurs to green economy and strengthen WBE certification with specific goals, incentives and reporting requirements to ensure women aren't left behind.
- Focus on recruitment and retention of women in skilled trades occupations; need to address
- Promote sector collaboration -- ensure industry, community-based organizations, education and training systems and public programs are all working together in identifying and delivering training/workforce development around green industries and occupations.

2. Mini-Grant opportunity for local Wisconsin schools and community organizations

[Share this with businesses and organizations in your district!](#)

**Grant Application
Deadline is
December 10, 2009**



- **Mini-grants up to \$1,000** are available for projects that provide a program or activity for girls (grades preK-12) focused on science, technology, engineering, math and/or the skilled trades.
- To be eligible, the project must involve a collaboration between different organizations, such as a youth-serving organization or other non-profit, business, and/or educational program/school.
- Projects (or a discrete portion of a larger project) funded with a mini-grant must be completed by August 31, 2010. Awardees will be asked participate in a statewide conference during Fall 2010 highlighting grantee programs.
- Use the link above to learn more about this project and learn about past funded activities. This project is funded, in part, by the National Science Foundation
- Online grant application: <http://www.psctl.org/ngcp/mini-grant/index.cfm>
This application is short and simple to complete!
- **Timeline**
November 10, 2009 - opening date for grant applications
December 10, 2009 - closing date
January 11th - awards made

3. Women's Council Endorses Legislation

Women's Council Board has added legislative advocacy to the Council's agenda for 2009/2010. Our legislative agenda is based on priority issues adopted by the Council Board, these currently include economic self-sufficiency; financial literacy; access to quality/affordable childcare; women's business ownership; women and the criminal justice system; healthy birth outcomes/reducing racial disparities in birth outcomes; and freedom from violence.

The Women's Council endorsed the following legislative proposals at its last meeting.

- **AB 57 as passed by the Assembly** - relating to permitting a mother to breast-feed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be. AB 57 has been messaged over to the Senate and the Women's Council urges the Senate to take swift action in support of this bill in the next session.
- **AB 265** - relating to requiring creditors to make specific disclosures in connection with refund anticipation loans.



3. Research & Publications

A. Widening the Net: National Estimates of Gender Disparities in Engineering

The Urban Institute

Link to Full Report: http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/1001337_widening_the_net.pdf

Link to News Report on the study:

www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/studies/recruitment_key_graduating_women_engineers_142273.html

- The study found that low enrollment, not low retention, undercuts the number of women graduating with engineering bachelor's degrees.
- While women account for half of all bachelor's degrees annually, they earn only about 20 percent of undergraduate engineering degrees.
- The study found that, overall and in most fields, women complete their studies and receive engineering degrees at rates equal to or higher than male students, including in the fields of civil, environmental, and chemical engineering.
- These are 'major results,' observed Dr. Norman Fortenberry, the director of the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education at the National Academy of Engineering, in how the schools and industry work to increase the number of women in the field and noting that the research refutes the commonly held view that women are more likely to drop out of engineering programs than their male counterparts.

Reported in the IWPR Research News Reporter (www.iwpr.org)

B. Staying Competitive: Patching America's Leaky Pipeline in the Sciences

By Marc Goulden, Karie Frasch, Mary Ann Mason, Center on American Progress,
November 10, 2009

Link to Report & Summary:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/11/women_and_sciences.html

- Women represent a large part of the talent pool for research science, but many data sources indicate that they are more likely than men to "leak" out of the pipeline in the sciences before obtaining a tenured position at a college or university.
- The loss of these women, together with serious increases in European and Asian nations' capacity for research, means the long-term dependability of a highly trained U.S. workforce and global preeminence in the sciences may be in question.
- The report provide information and recommendations on providing family leave policies to help keep women researchers in scientific fields.

ABOUT THE WISCONSIN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

For more information about the Wisconsin Women's Council, visit our web site at www.womenscouncil.wi.gov or contact Christine Lidbury, Executive Director, (608) 266-2219 or christine.lidbury@wisconsin.gov.

The Wisconsin Women's Council, established in 1983, is state government's statutory commission on the status of women and girls in Wisconsin. The 15-member Council is appointed by the Governor and Legislative Leaders.

